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20 December 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hal Ford

FROM: John J. Bird
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

SUBJECT: Suggested Topics for DCI Briefing to Congress

The following topics represent a warning view of what the DCI should tell Congress that we "are watching."

US/USSR - Arms control and the impact of potential Soviet initiatives on Western unity.

USSR - Impact on Soviet external relations and preoccupation with internal affairs resulting from the inevitable change in leadership.

USSR/Vietnam - The Soviet overseas base and its potential in SE Asia.

USSR/Afghanistan/Pakistan - Soviet pressure and military operations along the Pakistan border US commitments.

Berlin - The mid- and longer-term impact of continued Soviet control of air access to Berlin Quadripartite issues.

Poland - Political and social instability in Poland, while the USSR watches.

Yugoslavia - Economic and political problems that offer either a turn to the East in the worst case scenario or a US opportunity.

Eastern Europe - Prospects for instability and problems for the USSR in Eastern Europe.

Nicaragua - The recent Soviet commitment to direct military aid to Nicaragua, the prospects for a continuing military buildup, and crossing of the line drawn by the US.

N. Korea - Military movement, economic crisis, and diplomatic initiatives ... what does it all mean?

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Southeast Asia - China's effect on Vietnam's military strategy.

Philippines - Economic uncertainty and the prospects for social and political upheaval made worse by Marcos' health problems. What do we do after Marcos?

India/Pakistan - The continuing possibility of conflict centered on Pakistani nuclear developments.

Libya - The success of Libyan dual-track policy to be a leading terrorist nation and military foe to many, while simultaneously conducting a relatively successful diplomatic drive in Africa and parts of the West.

Iran/Iraq - The war and its potential for escalation in the Gulf with policy implications for the US.

Africa - Drought and famine and the accompanying opportunities for a US role in solution of the problems and advancement of our policies.

Mid East - The Syrian/Israeli relationship and prospects for near-term instability among the confrontation states.

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for John J. Bird

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